

## **Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report**

### **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)**

**Grantee Name:** Mariposa County Fire Safe Council

**Project title:** PLANNING, COORDINATION AND PLANNING  
(CCWPP)

**SNC Reference Number:** SNC 070055

**Submittal Date:** 03/01/2012

**Report Preparer:** Patrick Tierney

**Phone #:** 209-966-7700

**Check one:**

     **36 Month Progress Report**  
  X   **Final Report**

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. Final Reports should reflect the entire grant period.

**A. Progress Report Summary:** Both CCWPP's are scheduled on the March 20, 2012 Board of Supervisor's Meeting Agenda a per Mariposa County Fire, Don Flornoy 209-966-4330

**B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved:**

- Photo Monitoring- This is a planning project and therefore there are no "after" photos as the projects have not been started yet. There are before photos in the CD accompanying this report.
- A consultant was hired, two communities were picked and completed
- Map overlays for both communities were developed and on the accompanying CD. Layers include but are not limited to; Vegetation, soils, watershed, fire hazard threats, Wildlife Habitats, Fire History, response areas, community area. Archaeology and endangered species overlays are not available for public use and are controlled by the jurisdictional agencies.
- Major threats (stand replacing fires) to the communities have been identified. Each habitat type has mitigations wrote into the description of that habitat with mitigations/prescriptions to avoid resource damage. Demographics were researched, cultural and economic factors were considered in developing the projects list. The Southern Sierra Indian Council was involved with this process; the economic barriers in both communities will determine what EQIP and CFIP projects will happen

in the future. Property owners did wish to be identified in a public document.

- The Mariposa Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the two CCWPP's are tentatively scheduled for the March 20, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting. Don Flornoy of Mariposa County Fire has the CALEMA Disaster mitigation Plan scheduled for the March 6, 2012 meeting, which Mariposa County Fire wanted to get done first, the CCWPP's are included, but part the CALEMA Disaster Mitigation Plan and there was fear that the plans would be overwhelming to do on the same day.

**C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered:**

- Opportunities- Midpines developed a vegetation management committee to develop a strategy to improve their fire resiliency. Collaboration with Mariposa County Fire in developing the CALEMA Disaster mitigation Plan which will provide consistency with not only the CWPP's but with CAL FIRE's Fire Suppression and Prevention Plan. This collaboration included the Fuels departments of the USDO, BLM and the USDA Forest Service. Fire Prevention and fuels mitigation is now consistent throughout all the land management agencies as well as including Mariposa County Fire, Mariposa County Planning Department, Midpines Town Planning Advisory Group, and the Jerseydale Fire Safe Committee.

**D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved:** Involvement of the local communities in providing input to develop this plan. A good cross section of the communities was involved with the process. All of the land management and fire suppression agencies provided tremendous support in the completion of the plans.

**E. Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs:** (Please refer to your grant agreement to list your deliverables/budget categories and budgeted costs compared to actual costs incurred during this reporting period in the table below.)

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Budgeted SNC Dollars	Actual Dollars
Mariposa County Fire Safe Council Personnel	\$13,999.00	\$8850.96
Consultant Contract Salary for CWPP development	\$50,000.00	\$30,327.23
Advertising	\$1,912.00	\$157.04
Printing Costs	\$4,000.00	\$831.70
GRAND TOTAL	\$69,911.00	\$40,166.93

**Total spent on grant as of 1/06/11.**

**F. Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project? See Final**

**G. Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies.** There are no other relevant materials that were produced under the terms of this Agreement.

**Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY**

**Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders:** (What partnerships did you initiate or strengthen because of this project? How did they affect the project outcome? If applicable, how did this grant increase your organization's capacity? What is your plan to sustain this increase?)

In order to develop the CCWPP's the partnership with the Sierra National Forest became an asset with the discussions we had with all the facets of the Forest Service, from forest management practices to fire suppression. Because of this partnership, both entities have benefited by the understanding and awareness of the local residents to the issues that face this area today. The benefit for the Sierra NF is the support of the two communities for the efforts that Forest is putting into creating a balanced environment. CAL FIRE has based their Fire Prevention and Pre-suppression Plan based on the input we received from the public and documented into the plan. Mariposa County Fire is using the CCWPP as part of their CALEMA Disaster Mitigation Plan and we were able to use their office to gather information to develop the CCWPP's.

The Council's capacity was increased by the public having a platform to express their fears, concerns, and desires to the agencies that mandated with their protection. The agencies now have one central entity to obtain information from about the communities that is not tied to any local, state, or federal agency and has a conduit to the public that is not tainted by political affiliation. The Council intends to maintain their standing in the community by holding monthly meetings where the public is invited to attend, in two years revisit the CCWPP's along with our partners and stakeholders to revise strategy and tactics as needed. The current Board of Directors for the Council current plan is to facilitate more involvement of volunteers to promote an increase fire resiliency of the

community, and to continue reliance upon grant opportunities to continue operation of the Council.

## **Description of Project Accomplishments:**

### **1. Most Significant Accomplishment**

Completion of a CCWPP that involved all of the land management agencies, fire suppression agencies, county planning, homeowner groups, and special interest group that has resulted in a document that is consistent with all of their objectives. of the agencies, includes residents, and provides for the economic and cultural aspects. Every aspect of the environment was included to provide the residents a working guidebook to maintaining the properties. The agencies have a single point document to which they have provided input and can reference when trying to prioritize their five-year plans.

### **2. WOW Factor**

The CWPP's have been used as a reference for the Fire Suppression Agencies in the development of their Fuel treatment programs. These are now consistent from Federal to Local government levels.

### **3. Design and Implementation**

Collaboration early on of all the stakeholders is essential. Include any ethnic organizations that are relevant to the communities. Identify potential sensitive topics such as economics which people were really sensitive about. Avoid politically driven issues as these tend to bog down the entire process, political issues such as town planning are at the top of the list.

### **4. Indirect Impact**

The agencies have a single point document to which they have provided input and can reference when trying to prioritize their five-year plans. The CWPP's have been used as a reference for the Fire Suppression Agencies in

the development of their Fuel treatment programs. These are now consistent from Federal to Local government levels.

Midpines developed a Vegetation Management ad hoc committee to facilitate fuel reduction projects.

## **5. Collaboration and Conflict Resolution**

The US Forest Service provided many of the GIS Maps and provided technical assistance in the writing of the plan. They also were beneficial in developing a landscape scale plan for public lands which not only included the communities but the areas surrounding those communities. CAL FIRE provided many of the GIS maps and collaborated on developing landscape scale projects on private lands. We collaborated with Mariposa County Fire in the development of their CALEMA Disaster Mitigation Plan. Both plans are consistent with treatments, hazards, and mitigations.

Some of the conflicts we encountered were a lack of trust in government entities. We did help in this conflict as we brought government agencies into the discussions with local residents. One of the communities had a mutual distrust of the Native Indian group and the local non-Indian residents. We had limited success in resolving these issues. We did raise awareness of both groups of the fire issues which are non-political.

Stakeholders involved: Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, Mariposa County Fire, Mariposa County Planning Department, CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, BLM, Jerseydale Fire Safe Committee, Midpines Town Advisory Group, Midpines Vegetation Planning ad hoc Committee, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

## **6. Capacity-Building**

The reduction in grant funding and the reluctance of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council to seek private funding has resulted in draconian cuts to their organization. There is no longer an Executive Director; Board members are doing accounting and some on the ground management.

This project has provided leverage for Mariposa County Fire in securing FEMA grant funding. Overall having one unified strategy from the USFS, BLM, and CAL FIRE has resulted in a systematic approach to reducing the effects of large wild land fires.

Once approved, the CCWPP is going to be absorbed by the Mariposa County Planning Department and is going to be utilized by Mariposa County Fire in conjunction with their CALEMA plan.

## **7. Challenges**

The biggest challenge faced by us in the writing the CCWPP was the mistrust of the general population of Government. In addition, there was a reluctance to discuss the environment in context of personally owned property. Many property owners only valued the environment in the context of their property. The impact of environmental groups, government legislation, and the threat that owners will be told what they can do on their own personnel property is seen as threat to the owner's personal guaranteed constitutional rights. The CCWPP's can show the property owner that it is in his or her own best interest to maintain a balanced ecosystem, even if it is as small as a 1/2 acre subdivision lot. Relating the fact that a healthy forest and fire resilient property has proven to increase property values tended to be the best alternative.

The second biggest challenge became the social issues of economic have and have-nots. Many of the one on one meetings became a session of finger pointing, property owners that possess large tracts of land are not maintaining their holdings, Subdivisions were also targeting their neighbors as well. Keeping the CCWPP's non-political became our number one priority. All of the risks and mitigation s are focused on what is tangible, and can be accomplished. We did alter our objective to resolve the anthropogenic issues but did manage to include all parties in the development of the CCWPP's.

## **8. Photographs**

See attached and accompanying CD.

## **9. Post Grant Plans**

What are the post-grant plans for the project if it does not conclude with the grant? Include a description of the following (if applicable): (3) Names of other organizations you expect to involve; (4) Plans to support the project financially, and; (5) Communication plans?

**(1) Changes in operations or scope;** The CCWPP's are going to be used by the Council as our guidelines to applying for grants and to continue working with our partners in the improvement of the overall natural environment that our stakeholders reside in. The plans will be revisited on a bi-annual basis and the validity of the strategy involved will be revised as needed.

**(2) Replication or use of findings;** The CCWPP's are being used by Mariposa County Fire in their CALEMA Disaster mitigation plan. Should the Council become insolvent this agency will be the entity that will maintain the plan. CAL FIRE is using the CCWPP to develop their Unit Fire Prevention

Plan; both plans are consistent in goals and project objectives. The Sierra National Forest is going to use the CCWPP's as a reference source for the Forest Land Management Plan that is being developed at this time. USDOl BLM Folsom District Fire Management Plan is consistent with the CCWPP project goals and objectives

**10. Post Grant Contact:** Robert Bartholomew, PO Box 1182, Mariposa Ca. 95338. 209-966-7700, MariposaFSC@gmail.com.

### **SNC-approved Performance Measures**

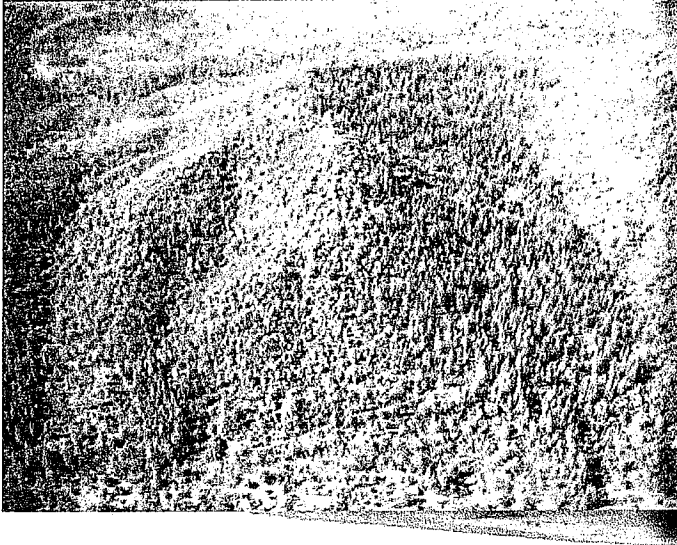
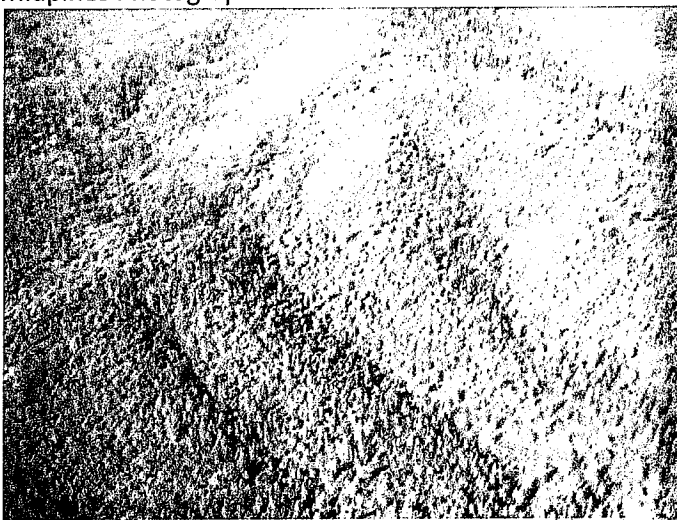
**1. Number of People Reached:** In the course of developing the Midpines plan, approximately 84 people attended the three meetings that were held in Midpines. After the Telegraph Fire, there was a nationally televised (NBC) story that addressed the problems of wild land fire and the importance of having a plan. An additional 71 people were canvassed, one on one, to gather information and input. This translates to approximately 10 per cent of the population of Midpines. The Mariposa County Fire safe Council also partnered up with the US Forest Service, BLM, CAL FIRE and the Mariposa County Fire Department for a risk assessment survey of Midpines. During this survey approximately 92% of the homes in Midpines were contacted and catalogued.

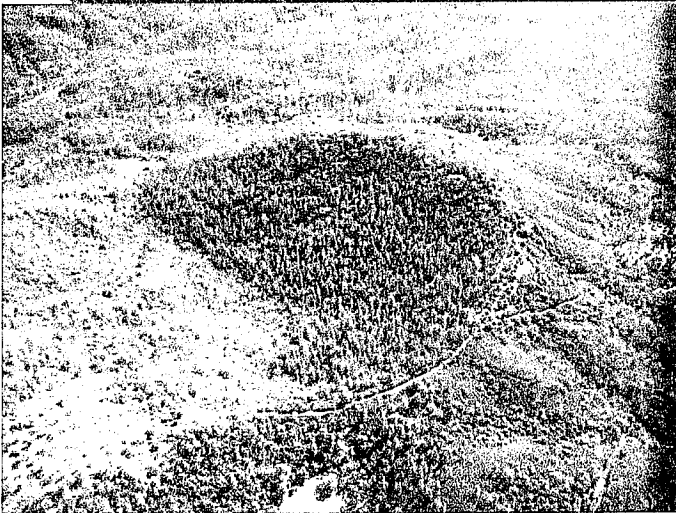
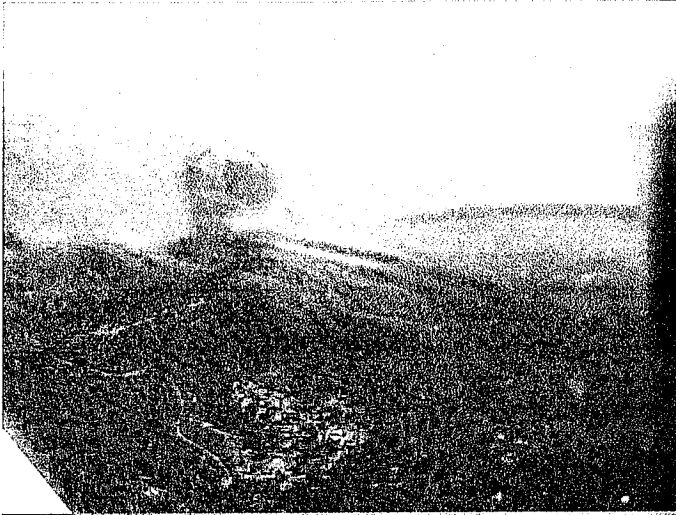
Approximately 64 people attended meetings that were held in Jerseydale concerning this CCWPP. In addition to this, approximately 140 were canvassed one to one for input and information. The same partners also conducted a risk survey and made contact with 96% of the homes in the Jerseydale area.

**2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada:** The value of the development of the GIS layers is \$18,450.00 based upon open market prices. The 60 second TV news article ran twice on local news is valued at \$21,300. The NBC Nightly News 46 second spot would have cost \$46,000.00 (Costs courtesy of KSEE TV). Gratis consultations and advisement of the Forest Service Forester, Forest Fuels Officer, Silviculturalist, Botanist, GIS Specialist, and Fire Management personnel would have cost \$6,850.00. CAL FIRE provided GIS assistance, Forester, and a pre-suppression engineering which we can value at \$3200.00. BLM Fuels officer time is approximately \$164.00. Local newspaper articles are valued at \$850.00 for the articles and announcements they ran as a public service.

**3. Number and Type of Jobs Created:** There was 1 Executive Director for the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, a contracted Program Manager, One accountant, and one historian who worked on this project for approximately six

Midpines Photographs:





Midpines Interior Fuels Treatment. 312 acres



Colorado Fuel Break

months. Ancillary employment was provided by the indirect economic impact of producing the CCWPP's such as the office supply house, the rent and utilities used by the Council during the grant period, and et cetera.

**4. Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities:** There are no reportable new, improved, or preserved economic activities that resulted from the CCWPP's.

**17. Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments:** The CCWPP's are being used by Mariposa County Fire in their CALEMA Disaster mitigation plan. In addition, there have been two risk assessments conducted in collaboration with Mariposa County Fire, CAL Fire, US Forest Service, and BLM to identify residences and associated risks. CAL FIRE is using the CCWPP to develop their Unit Fire Prevention Plan; both plans are consistent in goals and project objectives. The Sierra National Forest is going to use the CCWPP's as a reference source for the Forest Land Management Plan that is being developed at this time.

**Additional Deliverables:**

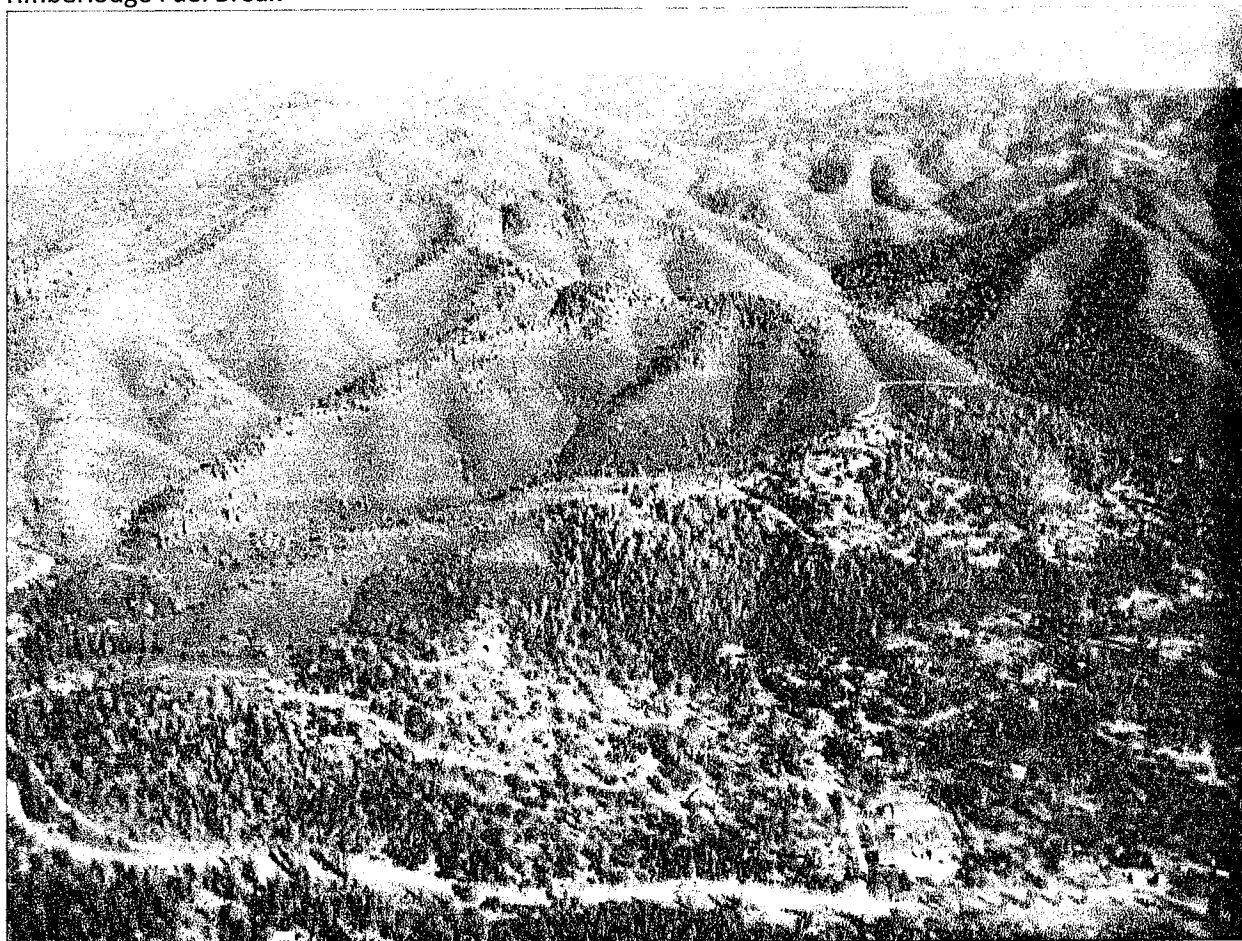
**Number of recommendations for improvements to fire safety and the number of recommendations adopted by county and other public agencies:**

For Jerseydale there is one County recommendation and nine US Forest Service recommendations. For Midpines, there are three US Forest Service recommendations, two BLM recommendations, and three CAL FIRE recommendations. All of these recommendations have been adopted by these entities and are listed in their respective agency plans or on their five-year plans.

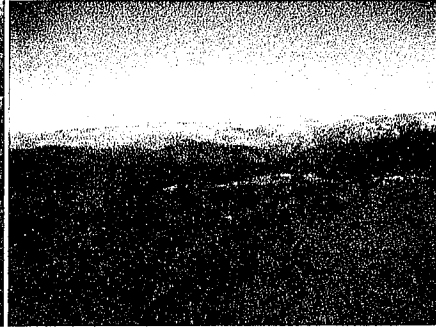
**Amount of fuel load removed from the plan in the first year plan implementation:**

We will be unable to comply with this deliverable until March 31 2013.

Timberlodge Fuel Break



Jerseydale Photos



Buckingham Mountain Fuel Break



Apperson Mine Fuel Reduction